

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 203

By Matheny

A RESOLUTION to urge the United States to confront the main source of international terrorism sponsored by Iran and designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps as a foreign terrorist organization responsible for the deaths of hundreds of members of the United States Armed Forces in Afghanistan and Iraq among other places.

WHEREAS, designated as a state sponsor of terrorism in 1984 by the United States State Department, Iran has remained the most active state sponsor of terrorism because of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' (IRGC) financial, material, and logistic support for terrorist and militant groups throughout the Middle East and Central Asia; and

WHEREAS, the IRGC's continued engagement in terrorism has had a direct impact on undermining international efforts to promote peace, economic stability in the Persian Gulf, and the growth of democracy; and

WHEREAS, according to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph Dunford, the IRGC is responsible for the deaths of more than 500 members of the United States Armed Forces in Afghanistan and Iraq, including those killed by the provision of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Explosively Formed Projectiles (EFPs) to terrorist Shia militias in Iraq and intended to target U.S. military forces; and

WHEREAS, the government of Iran and the IRGC have been responsible for the repeated testing of illegal ballistic missiles capable of carrying a nuclear device, including missile tests in October and November 2015, March 2016, and January and February 2017 in defiance of United Nations Security Council resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the IRGC is complicit in the ongoing slaughter of the people of Syria as it maintains support for, and seeks to preserve, the regime of Bashar al-Assad, which is responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths and millions of displaced citizens of Syria; and

WHEREAS, the IRGC has long been suspected of being behind the "Chain Killings" from 1988 to 1998, during which over eighty Iranian intellectuals and dissidents were killed; and

WHEREAS, according to detailed information released by the Iranian opposition, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, in February 2017, the IRGC has at least fourteen training centers in Tehran and other Iranian cities, where foreign nationals receive terrorist training before being dispatched back to Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Yemen, among other places; and

WHEREAS, the United States holds the IRGC responsible for flagrant and persistent human rights abuses in Iran, including unlawful arrests, torture, imprisonment, and executions that are contrary to international standards and in violation of due process; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2015 State Department Iran Human Rights Report, "The government and its agents reportedly committed arbitrary or unlawful killings, including, most commonly, by execution after arrest and trial without due process, or for crimes that do not meet the threshold of most serious crimes"; and

WHEREAS, according to the State Department report, "Commonly reported methods of torture and abuse in prisons included prolonged solitary confinement, threats of rape, forced virginity tests, sexual humiliation, threats of execution, sleep deprivation, electroshock, burnings, the use of pressure positions, and severe and repeated beatings"; and

WHEREAS, the IRGC threatens the national security of the United States, American nationals, and United States allies; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby condemn the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps and the

Government of Iran for their actions in supporting and funding terrorist groups in the Middle East and beyond and denying involvement in such groups' actions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby urge the United States government to publically condemn such actions and designate the IRGC as a foreign terrorist organization as consequences for its support of violent terrorism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, and the entire Tennessee congressional delegation.